

comprises at least one polymer which consists to the extent of at least 50 mol-% of one or more  $\alpha$ -olefins.

53. The method according to claim 37, wherein the self-adhesive protective film exhibits a force at 10% extension which does not exceed 25 N/15 mm width either in the lengthwise or transverse direction.

54. The method according to claim 37, wherein the self-adhesive protective film comprises a backing film which comprises at least one propylene copolymer.

55. The method according to claim 37, wherein the self-adhesive protective film is formed by simultaneous coextrusion of the adhesive composition and the backing film.

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REMARKS

This application is a CPA divisional application. In the amendment dated July 31, 2000, Applicants added new claims 37-39, and argued that the cited prior art did not teach this method. Although claims 37-39 replaced claim 18, which was treated as a process claim, and not subject to restriction, in the Office Action dated November 7, 2000, the Examiner held claims 37-39 withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention. Accordingly, this CPA divisional is being filed to gain consideration of claims 37-39.

For the Examiner's information, new claims 40-55 correspond to claims 21-36, respectively, and, therefore, are supported in the same manner as was indicated for claims 21-36 on page 7 of the amendment dated July 31, 2000.

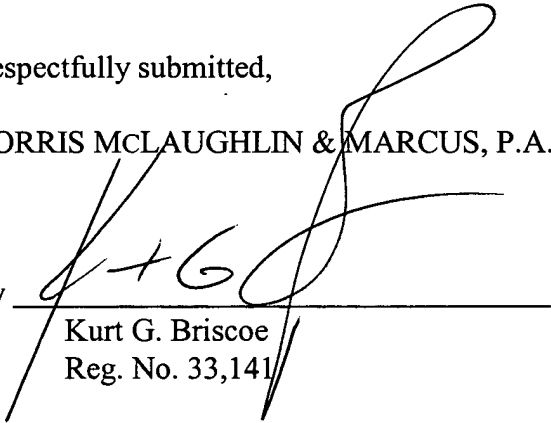
This amendment is being filed in accordance with the new rules of practice. Changes have been made in claim 37. A clean version of claim 37 appears above. A mark-up showing the changes to claim 37 using brackets and underlining is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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**MARK-UP SHOWING THE CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE TO PREVIOUS  
CLAIM 37 TO YIELD CLAIM 37 AS A RESULT OF THE AMENDMENT DATED  
MARCH 7, 2001**

37. (Amended) A method for protecting the paint finish of a vehicle or for protecting a painted vehicle component against soiling and damage during assembly, transportation or storage, said method comprising applying to said vehicle or vehicle component a self-adhesive protective film[ **according to claim 20**], said self-adhesive protective film comprising:

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- a) a backing film; and
- b) an adhesive composition coated on said backing film, wherein the adhesive composition comprises a copolymer of at least two different  $\alpha$ -olefins having 2 to 12 carbon atoms and at least one further comonomer, said further comonomer being a diene, said adhesive composition not containing 75 mol-% or more of any single  $\alpha$ -olefin, and the copolymer having a Mooney viscosity ML (1+4) 125°C of less than 50.

**Claims Pending as a Result of Preliminary Amendment Dated March 7, 2001**

37. (Amended) A method for protecting the paint finish of a vehicle or for protecting a painted vehicle component against soiling and damage during assembly, transportation or storage, said method comprising applying to said vehicle or vehicle component a self-adhesive protective film, said self-adhesive protective film comprising:

- a) a backing film; and
- b) an adhesive composition coated on said backing film, wherein the adhesive composition comprises a copolymer of at least two different  $\alpha$ -olefins having 2 to 12 carbon atoms and at least one further comonomer, said further comonomer being a diene, said adhesive composition not containing 75 mol-% or more of any single  $\alpha$ -olefin, and the copolymer having a Mooney viscosity ML (1+4) 125°C of less than 50.

38. The method according to claim 37, which comprises applying the self-adhesive protective film to a curved surface on an exterior portion of said vehicle.

39. The method according to claim 38, which comprises applying the self-adhesive protective film to a painted surface of said vehicle before said vehicle is assembled.

40. The method according to claim 37, wherein the diene is present in the adhesive composition in a proportion of between 0.5 and 10% by weight based on the total weight of the adhesive composition.

41. The method according to claim 37, wherein the self-adhesive protective film exhibits a UV permeability in the range from 290 to 360 nm of less than 1%.
42. The method according to claim 37, wherein the copolymer has a Mooney viscosity ML (1+4) 125°C of less than 30.
43. The method according to claim 37, wherein the adhesive composition is cross-linked.
44. The method according to claim 37, wherein the copolymer comprises polar comonomers, and the proportion of said polar comonomers in the copolymer is less than 20 mol%.
45. The method according to claim 37, wherein the self-adhesive protective film comprises at least one light stabilizer.
46. The method according to claim 45, wherein said at least one light stabilizer is selected from the HALS class of light stabilizers.
47. The method according to claim 37, wherein the copolymer comprises no more than 65 mol-% of any single  $\alpha$ -olefin.
48. The method according to claim 37, wherein the self-adhesive protective film exhibits a bond strength on steel between 0.3 and 1.5 N/cm.

49. The method according to claim 37, wherein the proportion of each  $\alpha$ -olefin in the copolymer is between 5 and 60 mol-%.

50. The method according to claim 37, wherein the self-adhesive protective film exhibits a UV permeability in the range from 290 to 400 nm of below 0.1% and the backing thereof comprises one or more light stabilizers in an amount of at least 0.15% by weight.

51. The method according to claim 37, wherein the self-adhesive protective film comprises an adhesion promoter between the backing film and the adhesive composition.

52. The method according to claim 51, wherein the adhesion promoter comprises at least one polymer which consists to the extent of at least 50 mol-% of one or more  $\alpha$ -olefins.

53. The method according to claim 37, wherein the self-adhesive protective film exhibits a force at 10% extension which does not exceed 25 N/15 mm width either in the lengthwise or transverse direction.

54. The method according to claim 37, wherein the self-adhesive protective film comprises a backing film which comprises at least one propylene copolymer.

55. The method according to claim 37, wherein the self-adhesive protective film is formed by simultaneous coextrusion of the adhesive composition and the backing film.